

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, May 7, 2013**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Russell called the business meeting to order at 9:00 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the minutes of April 30, 2013, as amended. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Jarboe abstained.

PROCLAMATIONS PRESENTED

- 1. NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH**
- 2. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**
- 3. SMALL BUSINESS MONTH**
- 4. NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK**

CITATIONS WERE PRESENTED TO THE JUVENILE AND ADULT DRUG COURTS BY DELEGATE JOHN F. WOOD, JR ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND DELEGATION

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for May 14 and 21, 2013.

- 2. St. Mary's County Health Department** (*Meenakshi G. Brewster, MD, MPH - Health Officer; Anita Stevens, Director, Infants and Toddlers Program; Health Department; Melissa Charbonnet, Director of Special Education, St. Mary's County Public Schools; Debbie Crosby, Director, Infants and Toddlers Program, St. Mary's County Public Schools; Melanie Adams, Social Worker, Infant & Toddlers Program, St. Mary's County Department of Social Services*)

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and sign a Resolution for the appointment of the St. Mary's County Public School System as the Local Lead Agency for the Infants and Toddlers Program. Motion carried 5-0.

- 3. Department of Land Use and Growth Management** (*Phil Shire, Director*)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Critical Area Grant Agreement, Project MD1427, from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Critical Area Commission) on behalf of the Department of Land Use and Growth Management in the amount of \$8,000 for reimbursement of a portion of the salaries of county staff who perform review of Critical Area permits and development applications. Motion carried 5-0.

- 4. Department of Public Works and Transportation** (*Gary Whipple, Supervisor of Engineering*),

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment realigning \$121,500 from Critical Maintenance & Repairs Project PF0804 and \$28,000 from Programmatic Maintenance & Repairs, Project PF0805 to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Project PF1310. Motion carried 5-0.

- 5. County Administrator** (*Dr. Rebecca Bridget*)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute employment contracts for the following positions:

Steven Anderson, Director, Dept. of Economic and Community Development;

George Erichsen, Director, Dept. of Public Works and Transportation;

Lori Jennings-Harris, Director, Dept. of Aging and Human Services;

Anthony Jones, Public Information Officer;

Robert Kelly, Director, Dept. of Emergency Services & Technology;

Elaine Kramer, Chief Financial Officer;

Brian Loewe, Director, Dept. of Recreation and Parks;

Phillip Shire, Director, Dept. Land Use and Growth Management;

George Sparling, County Attorney and

Susan Sabo, Director, Dept. of Human Resources and Chief of Staff.

Motion carried 5-0.

COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND: STATE OF THE COLLEGE REPORT

Present: Dr. Bradley Gottfried, President, College of Southern Maryland
Dr. Tracy Harris, Dean and Vice President, College of Southern Maryland
Austin Joseph Slater, Jr., Chair, College of Southern Maryland Board of Trustees
Theodore L. Harwood, College of Southern Maryland Board of Trustees

Enrollment in the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) continues to grow with a total enrollment of 27,100. The college provides a variety of educational opportunities which includes not only the classroom environment but on line classes, workforce training, personal enrichment classes and diverse cultural programs. The college has partnerships with Constellation Energy, the Department of the Navy and the University of Maryland to offer programs such as Nuclear Engineering, Health Sciences, Mechanical Engineering and IT/Cybersecurity. CSM is the 3rd largest provider of education to veterans in the state. The Leonardtown campus has an enrollment of approximately 2,700. The vision for the Leonardtown campus is to identify academic programs for the campus, expand arts and theatre productions, align classroom space with academic programs, redesign space and function of the “A Building” auditorium, increase on-campus signage and enhance campus community visibility. As college tuition escalates, it is anticipated that more students will attend local community colleges before transferring to a four-year program.

PUBLIC HEARING: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT SPECIAL PROJECTS APPLICATION TO MD DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AFFORDABLE WORKFORCE RENTAL HOUSING (SPRING VALLEY APARTMENTS)

Commissioner Russell opened the public hearing at 10:54 am.

Present: Dennis Nicholson, Executive Director, St. Mary’s County Housing Authority
Crystal Wojciechowski, Program Manager, St. Mary’s County Housing Authority

Mr. Sparling, County Attorney, entered the Certification of Publication into the record. Mr. Nicholson explained that part of the application process for the Department of Housing and Community Development’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is for the Board of County Commissioners to conduct a public hearing. The Housing Authority of St. Mary’s County is applying for \$200,000 from the CDBG to assist in the renovation of 128 apartment units in the Spring Valley Apartment Complex.

Commissioner Jones asked if the apartment complex was for mixed income. Mr. Nicholson responded yes.

Commissioner Morgan asked how many of the units were Section 8. Mr. Nicholson responded that 52 of the 128 were Section 8. He explained eligibility requirements for Section 8 and provided as an example that a family of 4 could earn \$64,400.

Commissioner Russell opened the public hearing for public comments. There were no public comments and the hearing closed at 11:00 am.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the past week.

PUBLIC FORUM (CHESAPEAKE BUILDING MEETING ROOM)

Commissioner Daniel L. Morris was absent from the Public Forum.

Commissioner Russell opened the Public Forum at 6:30 pm.

Public Comments. *(Comments as noted below are intended as highlights of testimony given and are not verbatim.)*

Dexter Heinonen, 45461 Stoney Run Dr., Great Mills, MD 20634

- Concerned with fluoride used to treat water – why does St. Mary's County fluorinate water
- Studies indicate children in high fluoride areas have significantly lower IQ scores
- Fluoride calcifies the pineal gland and is very harmful to the developing brain, even in low doses – many communities have stopped
- Quoted a Harvard adjunct professor who said fluoride seems to fit in with lead, mercury and other poisons that cause chemical brain drain
- Estimated population of this County at 108,987 - costs fifty cents per person to fluoridate water supply- stop and you would see savings of \$54,493.50

Commissioner Russell said he would forward Mr. Heinonen's concerns to METCOM and the Health Department.

Eve Taylor, 22441 Cornwall Dr., California, MD 20619

- On-going situation in her neighborhood concerning property ownership
- Called sheriff's office April 28 for individuals trespassing on her property; feels Sheriff's Office responding made situation worse
- Says she has documentation that she owns property and SMECO has right-of-way
- Friday May 3- while filming tracks showing where neighbors were driving on her property she was physically attacked by these neighbors – officers came and paramedics came – she was taken to the hospital
- Afraid for her safety and does not feel Officers doing enough to protect her

Commissioner Russell asked that Ms. Taylor provide any documentation she has on the incidents and he will forward to Sheriff Cameron.

Michael Evans, 15914 Camp Merrylande Road, Piney Point, MD 20674

- Requested a hearing before the commission on the miscount of EDUs on his property
- Operated since 1984 with own sewer system and 81 camp sites
- Originally asked the number of buildings on site and not the number of buildings **and campsites** when EDUs were determined
- April 2011 Health Department
- nt said I had to hook up to sewer or they would not renew license
- Took until Dec. 2012 to get building permit to hook up to sewer
- Health Department will only license property for 10 EDUs - need 22
- Have less than 20 days to get this resolved or can't use 67 campsites - having to turn down business, which causes financial burden
- St. George's Island Improvement Organization denied request for more EDUs
- Does not feel the organization has the right to tell him what he can do on his property
- LUGM determines number of EDUs and Health Department goes with that

Commissioner Jarboe noted the Board had changed the number of EDUs for Chiefs Bar and asked the County Attorney if there was any way the Commissioners could grant more in this instance, or if the Board could grant additional EDUs after the St. George's Improvement Organization denied Mr. Evans' request for additional EDUs.

Mr. Sparling, County Attorney, indicated that he does not believe the BOCC has any legal right to overrule the decision of the St. George's Island Improvement Association. This situation is entirely different from Chief's Bar. Years ago grant money was used to install the St. George's sewer system. There was some question if the funds were being used in accordance with the grant and not for new businesses. The case went into litigation and a settlement signed by a federal judge was reached in 1976 resulting in a Federal Court Order regulating the St. George's Island Sewerage system. Mr. Sparling suggested Mr. Evans might want to consult an attorney to see if there is a way to work around a Federal Court Order.

James Dorsey, 36157 Center Ave., Chaptico, MD 20621

- Heard about impacts of using fluoride last week – did more research
- Fluoride is not good for teeth – ingesting it is even worse

Commissioner Russell said he will take this issue to Dr. Brewster at the Health Department and METCOM.

Mr. Tim Kuno, 21967 Barisontine Ct., Great Mills, MD

- Safety Issues at the County's Gymnastic Center in Lexington Park
- Parents met with Sheriff's Office, Walden, Commissioner Morgan, Mr. Loewe, Director, Parks and Recreation on Monday 5/6/13 for dialog on situation
- Looking for quick fix on safety related initiatives – discussed lighting, surveillance cameras
- You have young girls coming out of facility at night dressed in gymnastic clothing

- Windows not tinted so anyone can see in
- Asked Commissioners if there are any County Buildings that would be better suited
- Would like to see USGA functions at our Gymnastic Center, but too small and location not desirable

Commissioner Russell said between Walden, the Sheriff's Office and the County the issue will be resolved.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Russell closed the Public Forum and adjourned the Board of County Commissioners meeting at 7:05 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)